



Governor's Centennial Summit

Gov. Jan Brewer

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Good morning and welcome to the Centennial Summit!

Thank you all for being here today.

The video you just watched was created to showcase Arizona as host of Super Bowl 42 ...

Today, this video not only reminds us of the great success and impact the Super Bowl had on our state, but also the planning and preparation it takes to coordinate a celebration of that caliber ... and our Centennial planning will take that same type of dedication and commitment.

This summit has been designed to inspire the ideas and planning that will help celebrate Arizona's 100th anniversary of statehood.

I want to recognize and thank all of the elected officials and civic representatives who reflect the rugged individualism and diversity of our state.

And it's all of us together who are responsible for the story that will be written for the next 100 years ...

From our young school children to our elderly, from the urban centers to rural communities ... it is the individuals, organizations and communities that weave together the fabric that is the spirit of Arizona!

Like many of you recently, I had the chance to watch some of the television coverage of the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

In particular, I was moved by the opening ceremony...

When athletes from around the world proudly waved the flag of their nation, faces beaming and crowds cheering...

That pride comes from the heart ... the heart of people who stand together honoring their history and culture and looking toward their future.

As I watched that ceremony, it echoed and underscored the importance of this Arizona Centennial.

Like the Olympics, this Centennial is not only about events, flags and history; it is most importantly about people ... the people we are and the people we want to be.

We may come from other states and countries, but for THIS celebration, we are all Arizonans.

As we approach the Centennial, some say, "How can you celebrate a Centennial during our state's fiscal uncertainty?"

Others might shrug off the Centennial, and say, "Who cares?"

I've been a problem solver all my life, with a track record that is consistent, proven and positive. And so I say to the skeptics, this time of economic uncertainty IS the time to celebrate what IS certain ... the strength, pride and diversity of the people of Arizona!

Last week, I announced plans for the Arizona Centennial Museum -- currently the Mining & Mineral Museum -- to celebrate our founding industries -- "The Five Cs" -- Copper, Cattle, Citrus, Climate and Cotton, the roots of Arizona's economic development.

The museum will feature interactive exhibits about each of these 5 Cs along with exhibits showcasing other industries that have -- or will -- shape Arizona's economy ... from computers and chips ... to military and aerospace ... to Solar Energy and Bio-Sciences.

In our continuing effort to streamline and bring efficiencies to government, and to privatize wherever possible -- NO FUNDS from the state will be used – rather, funding will come from foundations, corporations, citizens and grants.

Today, you will learn about projects and events being planned and, most importantly, you will learn how you and your community can get involved.

And, if you haven't done so yet -- It's time for each of your communities to establish a "State Centennial Committee" – I applaud Cochise and Yavapai Counties as well as the cities of Prescott, Avondale and Goodyear that also have established committees in their community.

If you have established a committee that I didn't mention, make sure you tell Karen Churchard or Mandi Wimmer... Because...

YOUR involvement is the key.

YOUR involvement will determine the success of our Celebration.

YOUR ideas from each corner of our great state WILL be the foundation of the Centennial.

I look forward to the results of the Summit; to hearing your ideas and helping the people of Arizona celebrate with honor and pride, our legacy and our future.

Again, I thank you all for being here today. I ask for your commitment to be a part of the Centennial and I applaud your sense of pride and spirit.